REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF FLOCKTON,

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Report on the health of your district during the year 1909.

It has been a year during which much has been done towards improving the Sanitary conditions of many houses: a good number of new houses (and new conveniences to houses) have been built, and there is every hope that building will continue. Nothing can give the ratepayers better ideas concerning sanitation than some building enterprise, and when more ratepayers live in their own houses they may realize more fully their public responsibilities, and each man who builds his own house is naturally most keen to do everything to make it perfect. None of the houses in Flockton are very bad, but many of them are not quite as good as we should like, they being old though solidly and well-built But every year sees some of these brought more up-to-date by new and larger windows, better privy accommodation and the like, though I strongly urge that every house should have one bedroom at least with a fireplace.

The past year was a most exceptional one in the matter of Infectious Diseases. During the past twenty years I do not remember having had such a large number of cases. From June until October we had cases of Scarlet Fever constantly cropping up, with no apparent connection with any cases

previously notified. About one case per week was the usual state of things, but during this period the whole of the West Riding was suffering from a Scarlet Fever epidemic of 400 or 500 fresh cases per month. No doubt some child not known to have the disease was going about whilst in an infectious condition. Out of 15 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year only 6 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Of the other 9 cases there was only one in which removal could have been enforced, all the other eight being the only children in the house affected and all able to have separate room provided. Now that we have an expensive Hospital for Infectious Cases in which they can be so well cared for I think that we shall get a larger proportion of patients removed each year, as it is not at all satisfactory either for the patient or the public health for cases of Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever to remain at home; and as parents see their children so well looked after away from home they will be less opposed to having them removed.

During the year some trouble was caused by new pail closets at the School, and their most filthy condition was commonly considered to be the cause of the Infectious diseases. This of course is not a possibility, but the conditions were certainly far from what they should have been, but I think they are now being attended to regularly, and that the filthy conditions of the past will not occur again. These closets should not have been altered until water closets could have been provided for. The closets of the Infants' School caused no trouble.

I had the Mixed and Infants' School thoroughly disinfected, and the class-room of the Infants' Department was done twice as this was the room in which most of the cases of Scarlet Fever arose.

I am pleased to again notice an absence of Tubercular Disease with which this district was troubled for many years. Improved sanitation, better and larger houses, and more sunlight in the rooms have helped to remove this scourge from our midst, and I trust that it will never again obtain a hold such as it has had these past 20 years.

Births.—The number of births during 1909 was 42 : 22 males and 20 females. This is still considerably above the average. There was 1 illegitimate birth.

Birth Rate.—The Birth Rate was 32·3 per 1000. The rate for England and Wales was 25·6, the lowest on record.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths was 15, this being rather below the average. There was no death from any Tubercular Disease. Three of the Deaths were of persons aged over 70 (their united ages were 217 years), and eight were infants. There were 2 inquests during the year.

Death Rate.—The Death Rate was 11·5 per 1000. The general Death Rate for England was 14·5, the lowest on record.

Infantile Death Rate.—There were 8 Deaths of children under 1 year of age, giving an Infantile Death Rate of 190 per 1000 births. This is much above the average, but 3 were cases of premature birth, and of the other five two cases could probably be placed to wrong and insufficient feeding.

For England and Wales the Mortality Rate was 107.

Zymotic Death Rate.—There were 2 Deaths from Whooping Cough and 1 from Enteric Fever and these give a Zymotic Death Rate of 3 per 1000. This is the highest figure for Flockton. There were no deaths from the Scarlet Fever Epidemic.

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1st Quarter...	3	4	7	2	4	6
2nd Quarter...	6	7	13	1	1	2
3rd Quarter...	9	3	12	2	2	4
4th Quarter...	4	6	10	1	2	3
Total ...	22	20	42	6	9	15

Infectious Disease.—The past year was notable for Epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough, and Scarlet Fever. There were 21 cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases, viz.: 15 Scarlet Fever, 1 Diphtheria, 3 Erysipelas, and 2 Enteric Fever. It is noteworthy that many of these cases occurred in

houses which had been reported to the Council for some insanitary conditions, all of which I am glad to say have been or are about to be remedied. Both cases of Typhoid occurred in bad houses, one being in a very overcrowded house, and the fatal case being in one of the houses to which your Council have given so much consideration of late.

Measles was epidemic in January, Whooping Cough in January and February, the latter causing 2 deaths. Influenza was much below the average.

Water Supply.—3,161,000 gallons were supplied, giving a daily average per head of 6 6 gallons. This is the highest average since the public water supply was established.

There is 1 certified midwife in the district and there was no case of Puerperal Fever. One inquiry was held into the death of an infant attended by the midwife, but no blame was attached to her, she having done all that was required of her. No other midwives practise in the district.

Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, six houses have been built by the Council and are now all occupied. Powers have been obtained to borrow money for the erection of another 6, and it is hoped to have them ready during 1910. Three detached houses have been also built and 5 old cottages and some old property have been demolished and 8 scullery houses built in their place. One old cottage has been converted into a satisfactory farmhouse

In the Mixed School additional classroom accommodation has been provided, the ventilation and lighting improved, and 6 closets were converted from privies to pail-closets, with unsatisfactory results. The Mixed School was closed for a fortnight in January on account of Measles; and the Infants School was closed at the same time also for Measles and again closed for 8 days in July on account of Scarlet Fever.

The Bacteriological Laboratory of the County Council has been of service in all the cases of Typhoid and Diphtheria.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. SMITH.

Stoneleigh, Middlestown,
Nr. Wakefield,
Feb. 16th, 1910.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.				
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.	Number	Rate.*		Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13
1899	1250	34	26·1	3	88·2	20	13·3	0	20	13·3
1900	1250	39	30	9	230·7	23	17·6	0	23	17·6
1901	1250	41	33	4	97·5	12	9·6	0	12	9·6
1902	1260	42	32·3	8	190	14	10·7	0	14	10·7
1903	1265	42	33·3	5	119	13	10·2	1	14	11
1904	1265	35	27·6	1	28·5	15	11·8	0	15	11·8
1905	1270	34	26·7	7	205·8	28	22	0	28	22
1906	1280	41	32	4	97·5	22	17·1	1	23	17·2
1907	1285	45	35	11	244·4	24	18·6	0	24	18·6
1908	1300	44	33·8	5	113·6	14	10·7	1	15	11·5
Averages for years 1899 1908.	1267·5	39·7	30·9	5·7	141·5	18·5	14·1	·3	18·8	14·3
1909	1300	42	32·3	8	190	15	11·5	0	15	11·5

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,065.

Total population at all ages, 1,251.
Number of inhabited houses, 265.
Average number of persons per house, 4·7.
} At Census of 1901.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—None.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Workhouse Infirmary, at Wakefield—Kirkburton Joint Hospital.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—No.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1909.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Total cases re-m'ved to Hospit'l
Diptheria (including Membranous croup)	1	1					
Erysipelas	3		1	1		1	6
Scarlet Fever	15	4	11				
Enteric Fever	2			1	1		
Totals ...	21	5	12	2	1	1	6

Isolation Hospital—Kirkburton Joint at Kirkburton.

Total available beds, 26.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

Causes of, and Ages at, Deaths during Year 1909.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Totaal Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Measles	1		1					1
Whooping Cough	2	2						2
Enteric Fever	1				1			1
Cancer, malignant disease	1					1		1
Bronchitis	1	1						1
Pneumonia	1		1					1
Premature Birth	3	3						3
All other causes	5	2					3	5
All causes	15	8	2		1	1	3	15

Infantile Mortality during the year 1909.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	Total under 1 month.	3-4 months.	5-6 months.	7-8 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	3	3	1	1	2	1	8
Whooping Cough ...			1	1			2
Premature Birth ...	3	3					3
Convulsions					1	1	2
Bronchitis					1		1
Totals	3	3	1	1	2	1	8

District [or sub-division] of Flockton Urban Population Estimated to middle of 1909, 1,300.

Births in the year—Legitimate, 41; Illegitimate, 1.

Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 8; Illegitimate Infants, 0.

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 15.

FLOCKTON URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Water Supply—

Any development during 1909. Extension to Cold Hiendley.

Has Public Supply been continuous? Yes.

Is the water plumbo-solvent and if so, what corrective treatment is applied? } No.

Any samples tested for lead during 1909? No.

Sewerage—

Developments during 1909. None.

Developments still needed. Flockton Green.

Any offensive Manholes? No.

Sewage Disposal—

Any complaint as to outfall works? No.

Scavenging—

Any inadequacy, and where? Fairly satisfactory.

By-Laws and Regulations—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1909. No.

Adoptive Acts—

Any steps taken for the consideration, adoption or application of:—

Notification of Births Act, 1907. None.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. None.

Other Adoptive Acts. None.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No in District.	No. on Register.	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Conditions.
Common Lodging Houses	0	...	...	...
Canal Boats	0	...	...	...
Slaughter Houses	3	..	3	Fair.
Cowsheds	20	12	12	Poor.
Offensive Trades	0	...	...	...

Cowsheds—

Any special inspection made during 1909. General inspection.

Any milk samples tested for tubercle, and with what result. No.

Infectious Disease—

Any suspected spread by rats, dogs, cats, fowls, flies or fleas? No.

Isolation Hospital—

Any observation on adequacy or efficiency? No Complaint.

Schools—

Any matter calling for special attention of School Medical Officer? No.

Midwives Act, 1902—

Are there any uncertified women attending confinements without a doctor. No.

Dwellings—

Any occupied houses unfit for habitation? No.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses? No.

Any action taken under the Housing Acts. No.

Is house-to-house inspection systematically made? Yes. Are records kept? Yes.

Any special activity in house-building? No.

Number of houses built during 1909? 5. General character? Scullery houses.

Do the new houses accord with By-Laws? Yes. Who deals with plans? Council.

Infantile Mortality—

What organised effort to control it? None.

Is Health Visitor appointed by S.A.? No. By any body? No.

Prevention of Consumption—

Any system of notification? Voluntary.

Any local treatment of Patients on sanatorium lines? No.

Any Sanitary Inspection of Patients' Houses. Yes. Any Disinfection of Ditto. No.

Any Distribution of Advice? No. Any Action re Spitting. No.

Any Disinfection of public rooms, vehicles, etc. No.

Nuisances—

Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1908. 0. At close of 1909. 0. Reported during 1909. 16. Abated during 1909. 16.

Total No. of Legal Notices served for Abatement of Nuisances during 1909. 4.

Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings? None.

No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1909. 7. Trapped. 7.

No. of Closets newly constructed during 1909. 3. Kinds? Covered Privy Middens.

No. of Closets reconstructed during 1909. 5. Kinds. Covered Privy Middens.

What action has been taken in regard to the following Matters?

Seizures of Unsound Food. None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. None.

No. of Smoke observations taken. None.

Births during 1909—

Males, 22. Females, 20. Total, 42,

Number illegitmate included in above? 1. Number of Still Births (not included). Not known.

Deaths during 1909—

(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the district, without any correction. 15.

(2) Nett Deaths, on which the rates are calculated. Males, 6. Females, 9. Total 15.

Number uncertified, included in the above. None.